

Appl. No.: 10/772,690
Amdt. dated 11/01/2007
Reply to Office Action of 08/09/2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1 – 9 are allowable, and that Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 577436 A1. Claim 10 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 11. Claim 11 has been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all pending Claims 1-11 are in condition for immediate allowance and an early notification of the allowability of these claims is earnestly solicited. If any matters remain to be resolved, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at 704-444-1185 to expedite prosecution of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Appl. No.: 10/772,690
Amdt. dated 11/01/2007
Reply to Office Action of 08/09/2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy J. Balts', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Timothy J. Balts
Registration No. 51,429

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
LEGAL02/30498341v1

ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON NOVEMBER 1, 2007.